



We Protect What Matters Most

February 13, 2023

To whom it May Concern: **SB 962: SGAR Ban**

My name is Heather Millette I am From Watertown Ct and Provide Pest Control Services to the Community I live and work in. We protect public Health and Property from Pests that cause damage or Health risks to structural Buildings of all types of Homes, Apartments, Restaurants and Manufacturing facilities to name a few.

Rodents have been on the rise in Connecticut over the last 5-10 years from Mice or rats in a home that dribble urine and feces everywhere they roam spreading germs& disease as well as the local Restaurants and Manufacturing facilities. SGARs are essential because of the bacteria, viruses, and other disease-causing pathogens that rodents can transmit to humans. Rodents are known to transmit diseases like murine typhus and salmonellosis indirectly through their droppings, saliva, urine, and hosting fleas. Rodents also exacerbate allergies and asthma attacks due to allergenic proteins in their urine and feces. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), rodents transmit over 35 diseases such as hantavirus, rat bite fever, trichinosis, plague, infectious jaundice, Weil's disease, and leptospirosis.¹

The pervasiveness of rats in the environment underscores issues of environmental injustice, whereby residents of under-resourced settings are disproportionately affected by stressors such as rats in comparison to more affluent communities.² **Rats are more widespread in under-resourced areas where factors such as abandoned buildings and the inability to afford secure trash bins can increase the prevalence of rats in a neighborhood.** In more affluent communities, residents can afford costly rodent proofing services in addition to more expensive treatment options. However, in these lower income neighborhoods residents will struggle to afford the rise in pest management costs for combating rodents. Allowing state governments to restrict or ban rodent management tools like second generation products, could be a detriment to protecting the public's physical health, particularly in these communities.

SB 962 does nothing to stop the widespread use of rodenticides by untrained individuals. Pest management professional in Connecticut rely on scientifically reviewed rodenticides and oversight by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to control rodent infestations with the state.

I would also like to point out that the U.S. EPA is currently evaluating all rodenticides as part of their pesticide review cycle. Late last year, a proposed interim decision was released by the Agency that would classify these products as restricted use, allowing only certified applicators, like pest management professionals the ability to use these products due to the testing and training our industry receives. The comment closing period for this proposed interim decision is February 13, 2023, and we feel that any actions taken, should be done so by the agency that has the expertise, resources, and career staff in this field. We ask that Connecticut not get ahead of the science and respectfully request this bill be held until the Agency has released its final decision on all rodenticides.

Respectfully,

Heather Millette 860-274-9503 x 102

¹ "Rodents," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, www.cdc.gov/rodents/diseases/direct.html.

² Byers, K.A., Cox, S.M., Lam, R. *et al.*, "They're always there": resident experiences of living with rats in a disadvantaged urban neighbourhood. *BMC Public Health* 19, 853 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-7202-6>